

MARVEL

031

**AARON
LARROCA
DELGADO**

STAR WARS



STAR WARS
**SCREAMING
CITADEL**
PART 2 OF 5

THE SCREAMING CITADEL

Book VII, Part II

It is a time of turmoil for the galaxy. While the evil Galactic Empire remains strong, the Rebel Alliance continues to fight for freedom, and establishes a secret outpost deep in the Outer Rim.

Young rebel pilot Luke Skywalker struggles with his destiny. He can feel the Force, but without training, he cannot become a Jedi Knight. When rogue archaeologist Doctor Aphra approaches Luke with an offer—accompany her to meet a queen who can reactivate an artifact containing the consciousness of an ancient Jedi—he cautiously accepts.

Once at the Citadel of Ktath'atn—the Screaming Citadel—Aphra and Luke attempt to curry favor with the Queen. They are unsuccessful until Luke accidentally lashes out with the Force and attracts the Queen's attention—for better or for worse....

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Rebel Temporary
Outpost, Horox III.



I'M TELLING
YOU, I KNOW
APHRA.



AND THIS IS
NO COINCIDENCE,
HAN.

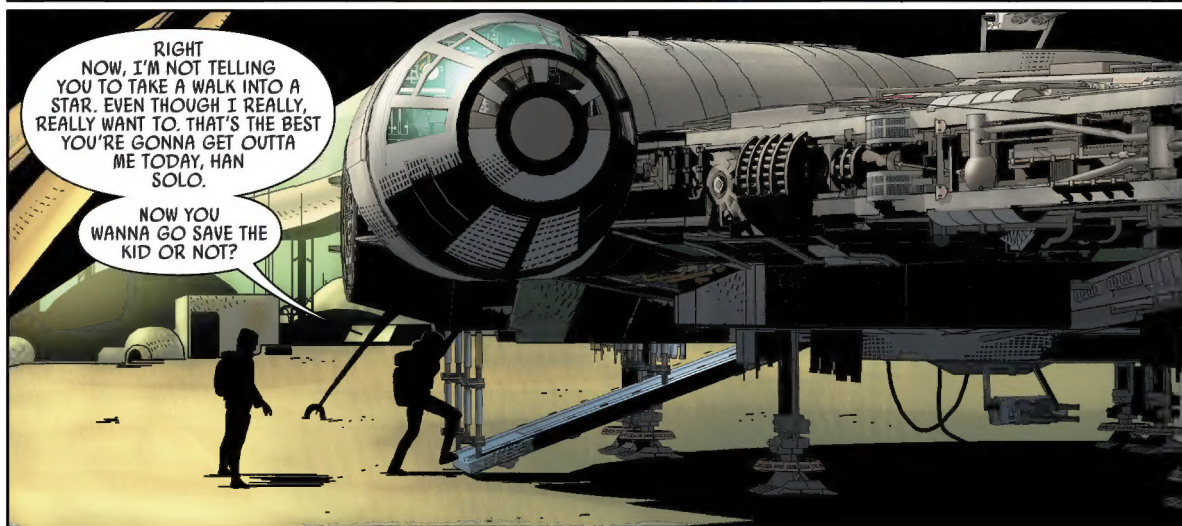
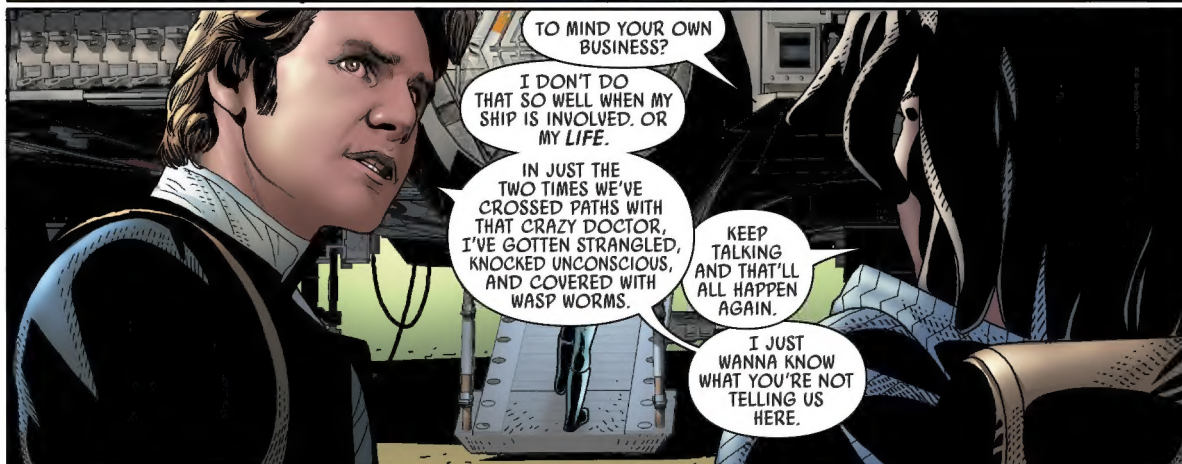
NOT
TODAY, OF ALL
DAYS.

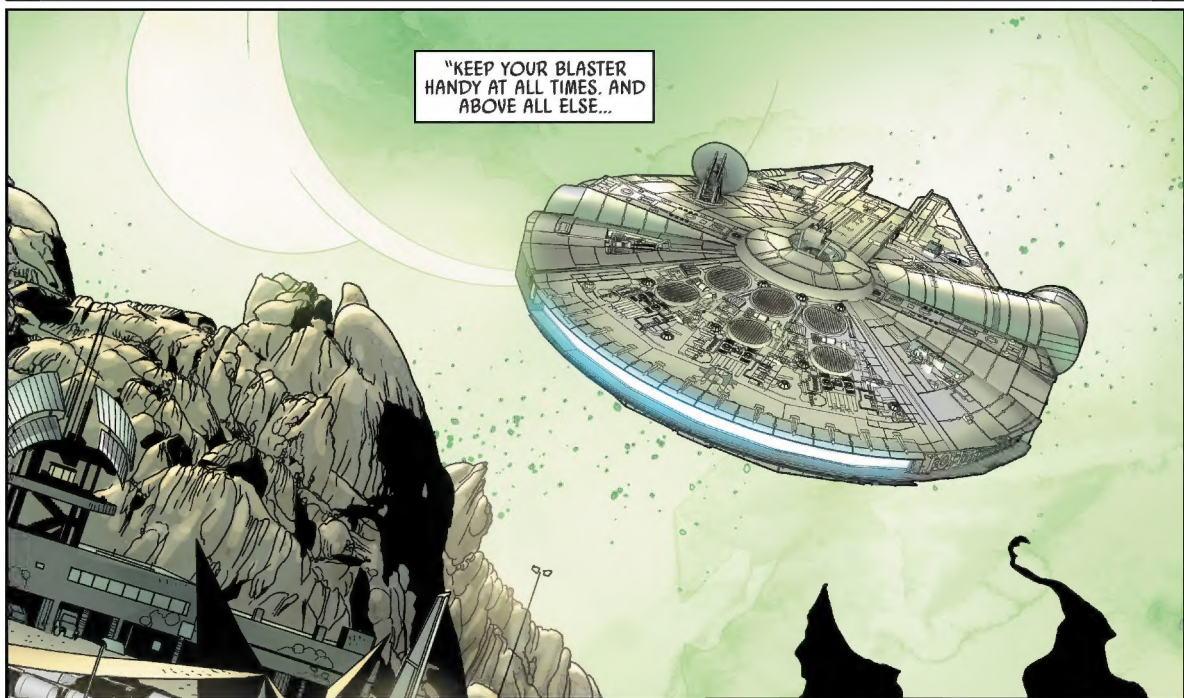
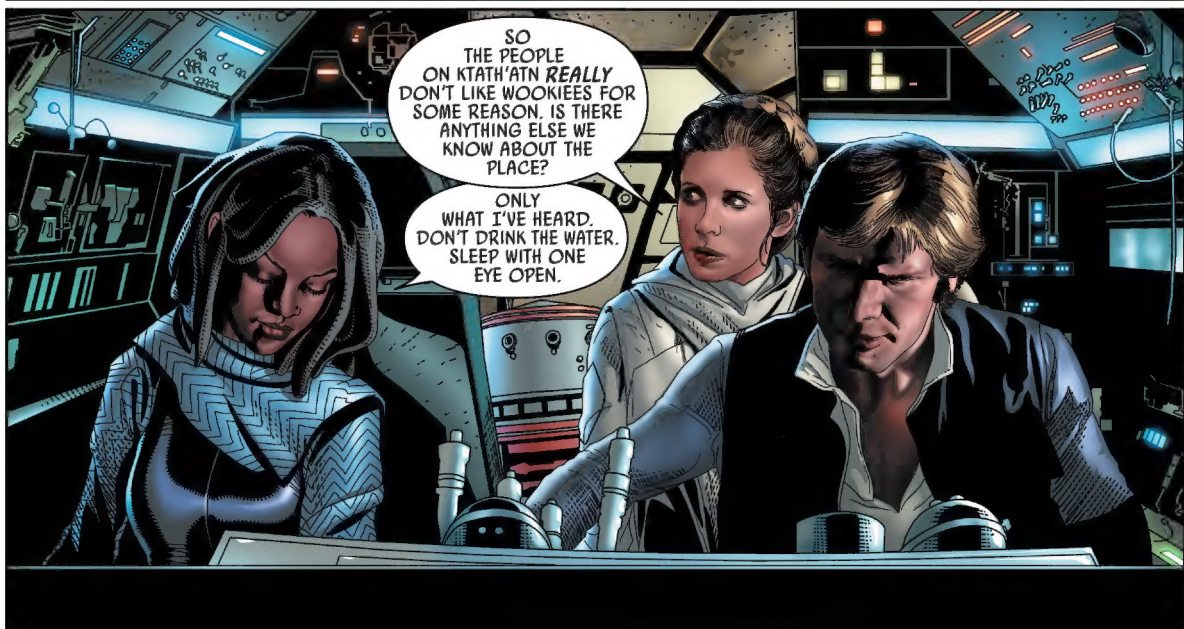
ONE DAY A YEAR, THE
QUEEN OF KTATH'ATN SEES VISITORS AND
GRANTS FAVORS IN EXCHANGE FOR RECEIVING THE
GALAXY'S MOST INTERESTING ORGANIC
ODDITIES.

AND THAT'S THE
VERY SAME DAY THAT APHRA DECIDES
TO KIDNAP OUR OWN FORCE-SENSITIVE,
WANNABE JEDI?

WAIT,
WHAT DO YOU MEAN
SHE "RECEIVES"
THEM?

NOT A
COINCIDENCE, I'M
TELLING YOU.





"...NEVER TRUST
THE QUEEN."

The Citadel of Ktath'atn.

THIS IS
INTOLERABLE.
I DEMAND TO SEE
THE QUEEN AT
ONCE.



THE RECEPTION
HAS ENDED EARLY. THE
QUEEN WILL RECEIVE VISITORS
AGAIN NEXT YEAR. GO BACK
TO WHERE YOU CAME
FROM.

THAT
IS SIMPLY NOT
ACCEPTABLE!



WE HAVE COME ALL THE WAY FROM THE MOONS OF AI'KEN PRIME
TO SEE THE QUEEN! DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHO I AM,
YOU TRUMPED-UP LITTLE BUTLERS?

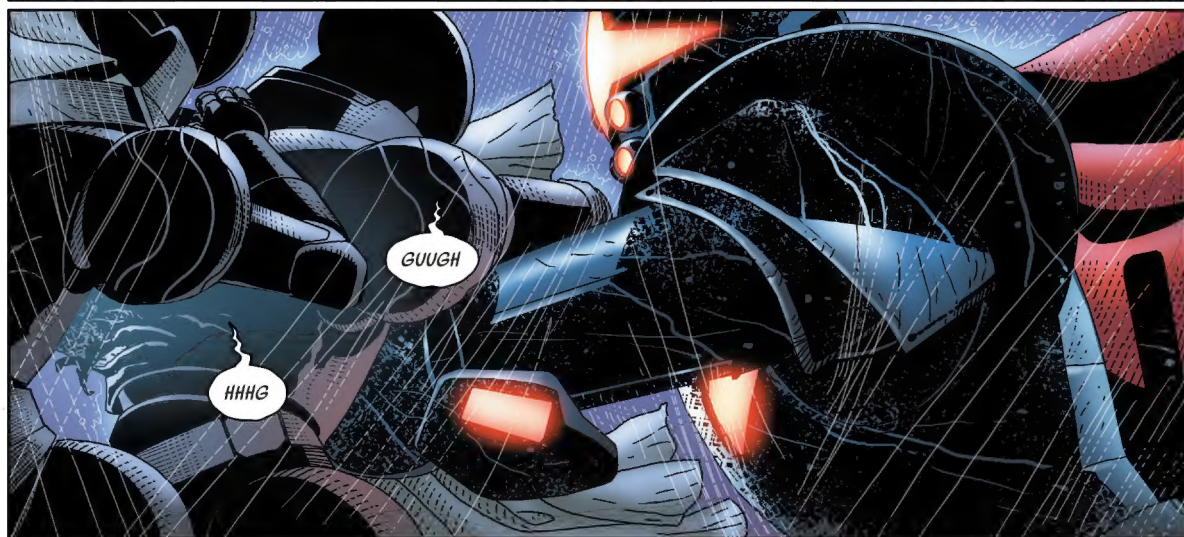
I AM **LORD
HOSSFERIN!**
OF THE VANDELA
STAR SYSTEM
HOSSFERINS!

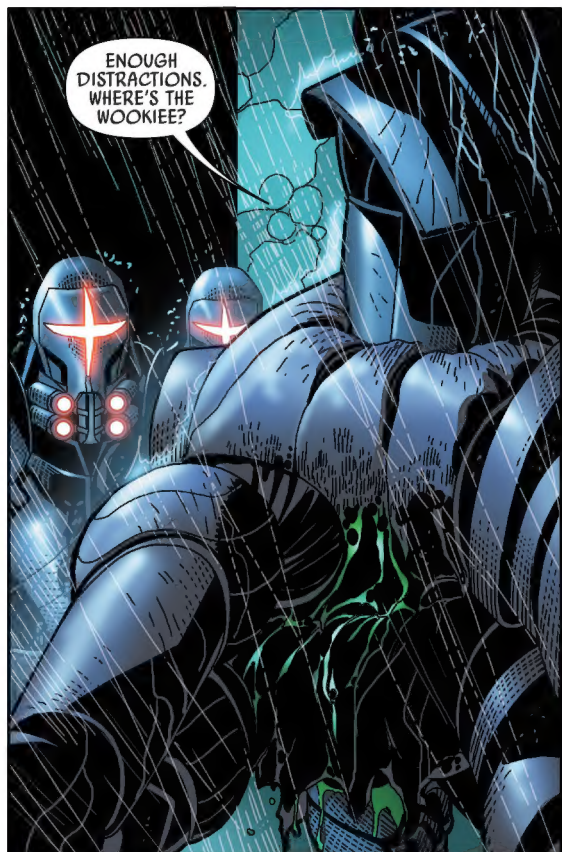
NOW GO
AND FETCH YOUR
SO-CALLED QUEEN
AT ONCE! OR YOU WILL
FEEL THE LEGENDARY
HOSSFERIN
WRATH!

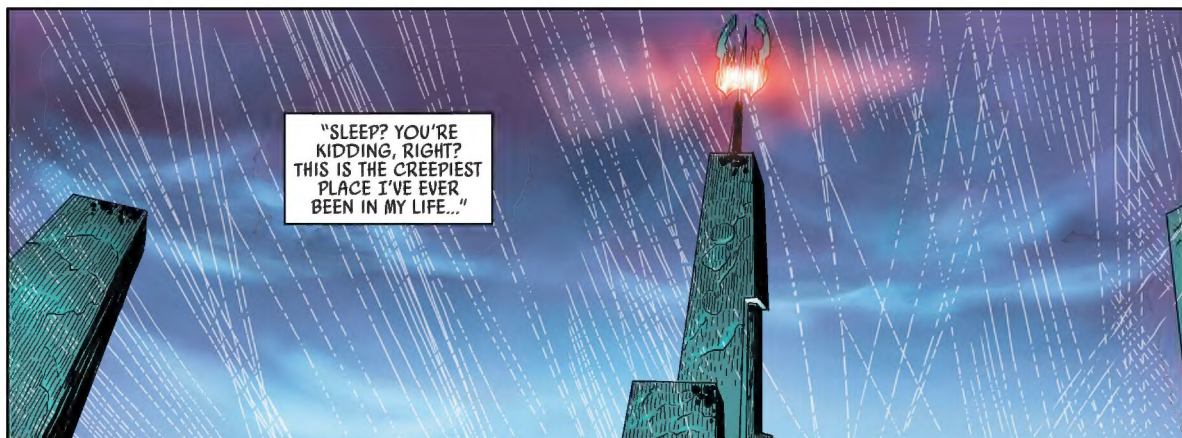


AH,
HERE COMES ONE
OF HER LIEUTENANTS
NOW. **BOMBINAX**,
IS IT?

PERHAPS
NOW WE CAN GET
SOME--







"SLEEP? YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT? THIS IS THE CREEPIEST PLACE I'VE EVER BEEN IN MY LIFE..."



...AND I ALMOST DIED IN AN IMPERIAL TRASH COMPACTOR ONCE.

WELL, I'M GONNA NEED YOU TO TURN ON THE **FARM BOY CHARM** THIS MORNING, LUKE, IF WE WANNA GET OUT OF THIS WITH OUR **JEDI ARTIFACT** REACTIVATED.



WHAT MAKES YOU THINK SHE CAN EVEN DO IT, APHRA?

THE QUEEN OF KTATH'ATN HAS AN INTEREST IN ALL MANNER OF PHYSICAL DEFORMITIES AND ODDITIES. THAT INCLUDES THE JEDI.

NO OFFENSE.

WORD IS SHE'S FAIRLY OBSESSED WITH THEM. IF SHE CAN'T ACTIVATE THE ARTIFACT, SHE'LL KNOW WHO CAN.

I'M NOT SURE I LIKE THE SOUND OF ANY OF THAT.



LAST TIME
I WAS THE GUEST
OF SOMEONE WHO WAS
OBSESSED WITH THE JEDI, I
ENDED UP FIGHTING FOR
MY LIFE IN AN
ARENA.

YEAH,
I KNOW. I
LOST GOOD CREDITS
WHEN YOU DIDN'T
DIE.

BUT
THE QUEEN
OF KTATH'ATN ISN'T
GRAKKUS THE
HUTT.



NO ARENA
HERE, KID. JUST
BREAKFAST.

SO THE
QUEEN WILL HELP
US IN EXCHANGE FOR...
HAVING BREAKFAST
WITH ME?

WELL, NOT
EXACTLY. SEE THE
ODDITIES THAT ARE
BROUGHT BEFORE HER
ONCE A YEAR...SHE
DOESN'T JUST WANNA
TAKE A GANDER
AT THEM.



SHE **KEEPS**
THEM.

SHE
WHAT?



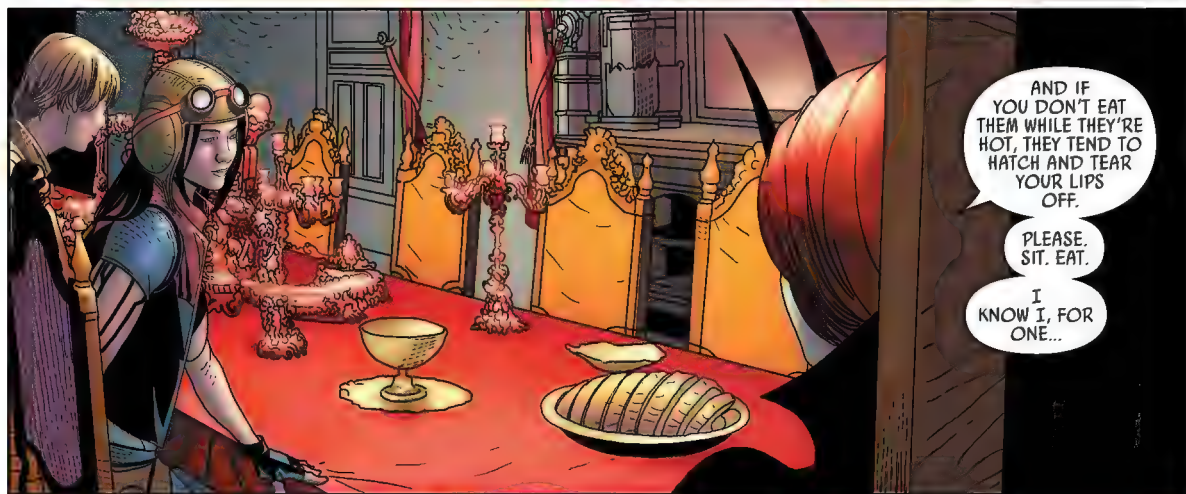
DON'T
WORRY, LUKE.
JUST LET ME
DO ALL THE
TALKING.

AH, AT
LAST, THE GUEST
OF HONOR HAS
ARRIVED.



DO SIT
DOWN.

THE
KRILLCRAB EGGS
ARE GETTING
COLD.



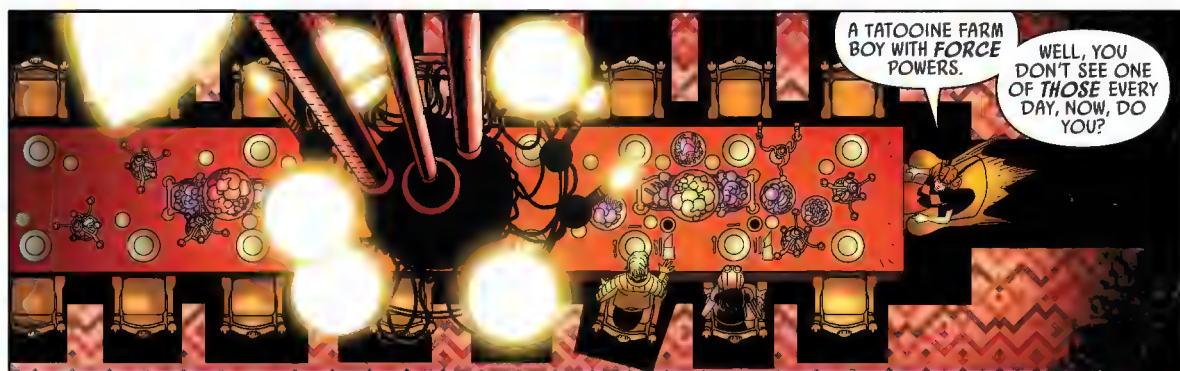
AND IF
YOU DON'T EAT
THEM WHILE THEY'RE
HOT, THEY TEND TO
HATCH AND TEAR
YOUR LIPS
OFF.

PLEASE.
SIT. EAT.

I
KNOW I, FOR
ONE...

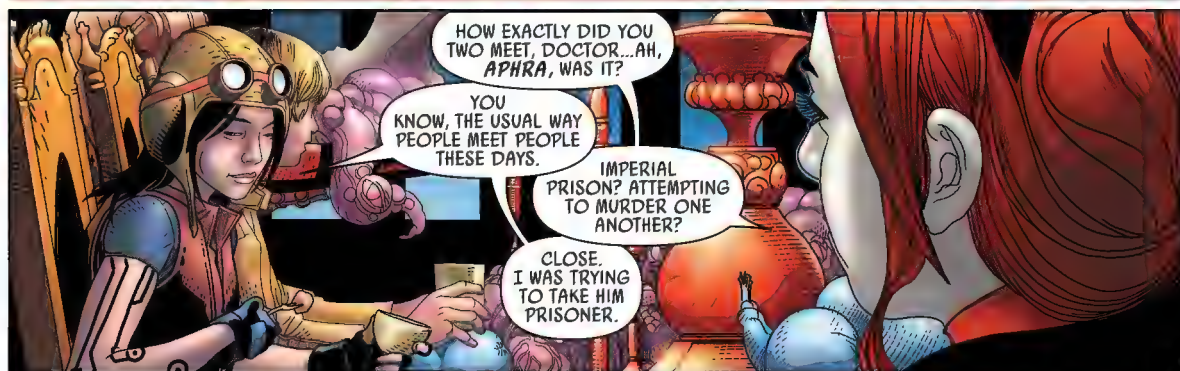


...AM
ABSOLUTELY
STARVING.



A TATOOINE FARM
BOY WITH **FORCE**
POWERS.

WELL, YOU
DON'T SEE ONE
OF **THOSE** EVERY
DAY, NOW, DO
YOU?

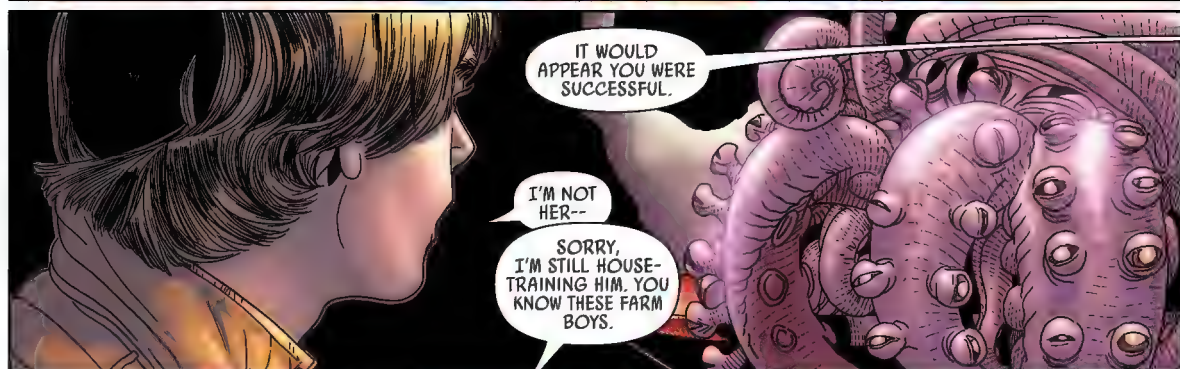


HOW EXACTLY DID YOU
TWO MEET, DOCTOR...AH,
APHRA, WAS IT?

YOU
KNOW, THE USUAL WAY
PEOPLE MEET PEOPLE
THESE DAYS.

IMPERIAL
PRISON? ATTEMPTING
TO MURDER ONE
ANOTHER?

CLOSE.
I WAS TRYING
TO TAKE HIM
PRISONER.



IT WOULD
APPEAR YOU WERE
SUCCESSFUL.

I'M NOT
HER--

SORRY,
I'M STILL HOUSE-
TRAINING HIM. YOU
KNOW THESE FARM
BOYS.



I KNOW
EVERY SORT OF
CREATURE YOU CAN
IMAGINE, DOCTOR. AND
MANY I'M SURE YOU
CANNOT.

THEY HAVE
ALL BEEN PARADED
THROUGH THE HALLS
OF THIS CITADEL. ALL BY
PEOPLE DESPERATE
TO GAIN MY
FAVOR.

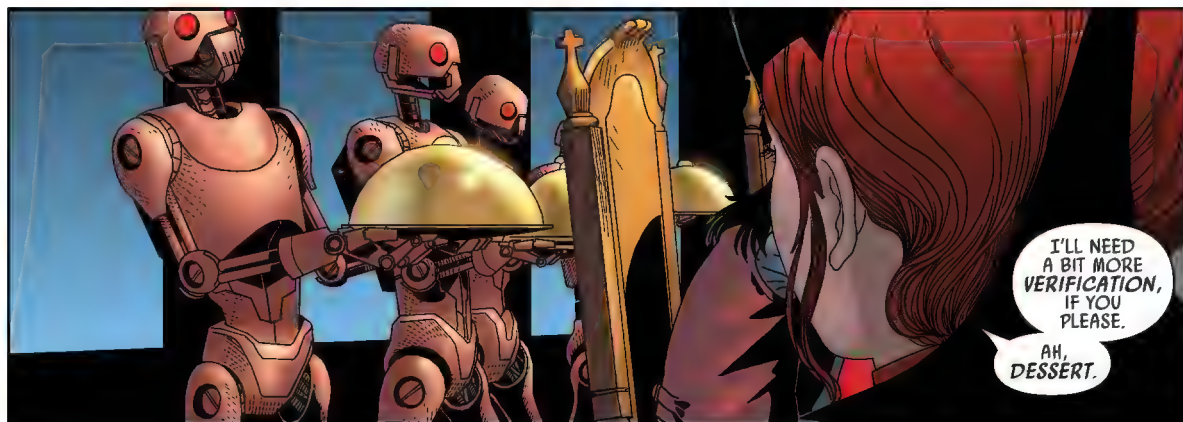
BUT
NEVER ONCE
HAS ANYONE
BROUGHT ME
A JEDI.



I'M
NOT A--

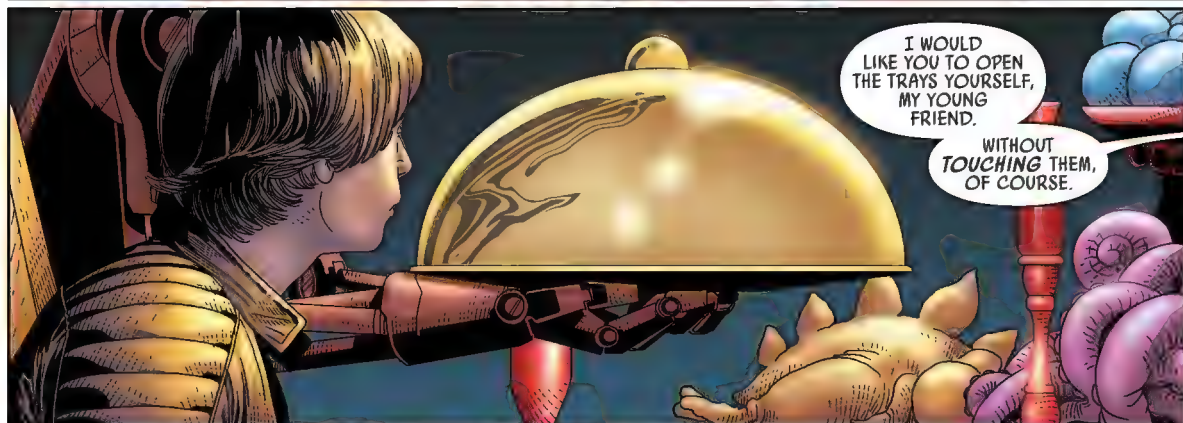
MY JEDI IS
THRILLED TO MEET
YOU, YOUR HIGHNESS.
NOW WHY DON'T WE TALK
ABOUT WHAT I
WANT?

NOT
JUST YET.
FIRST...



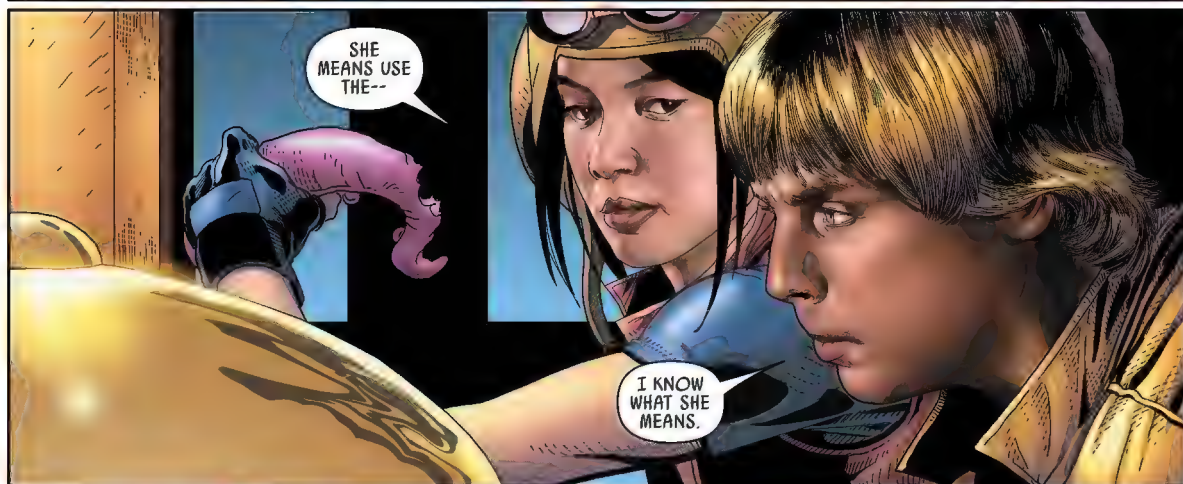
I'LL NEED
A BIT MORE
VERIFICATION,
IF YOU
PLEASE.

AH,
DESSERT.



I WOULD
LIKE YOU TO OPEN
THE TRAYS YOURSELF,
MY YOUNG
FRIEND.

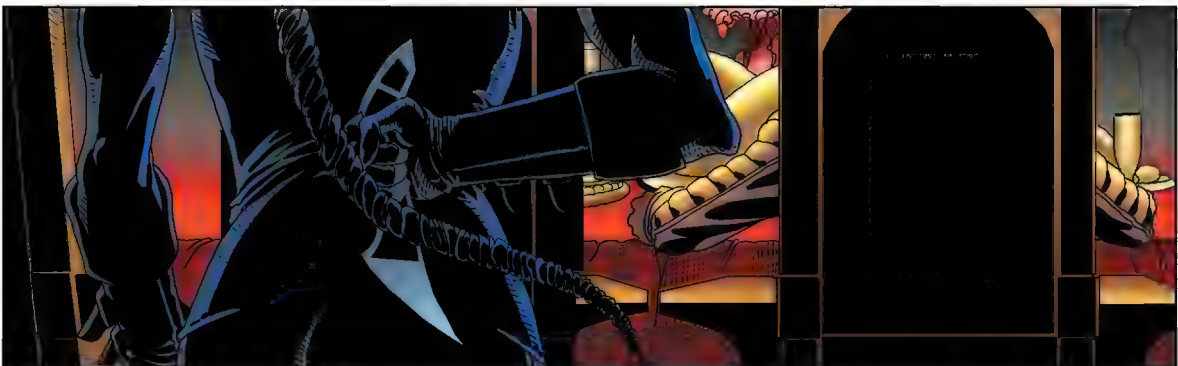
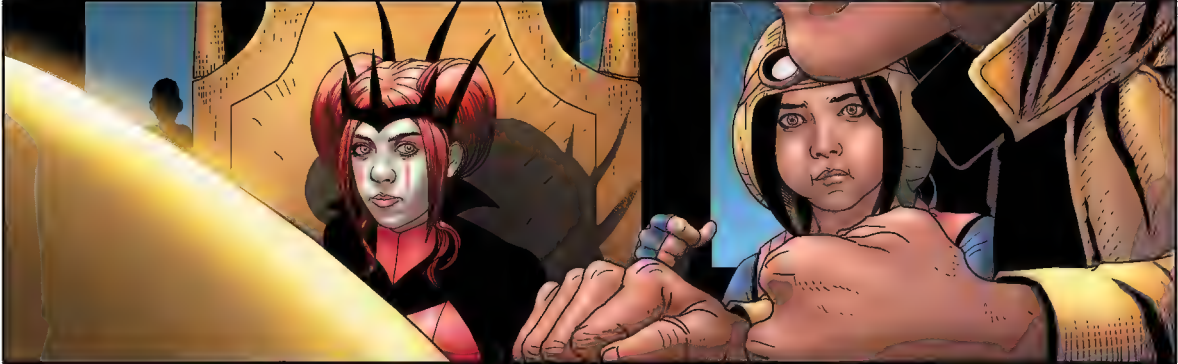
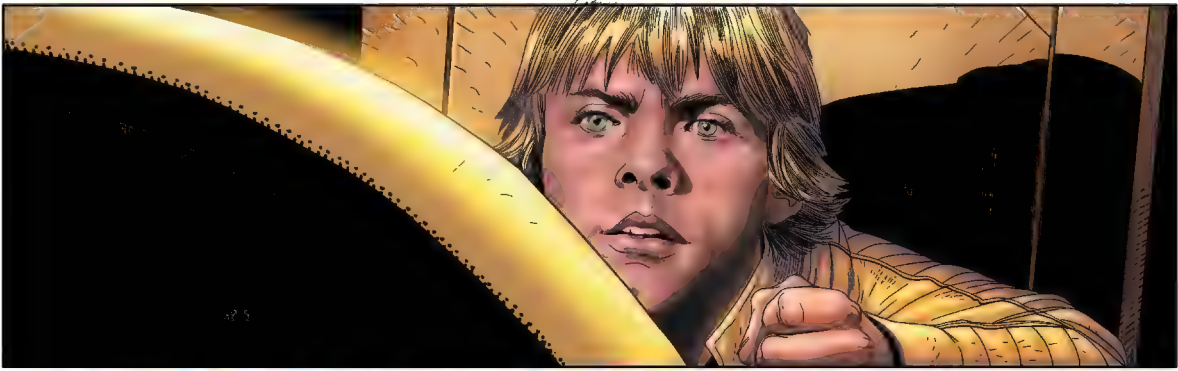
WITHOUT
TOUCHING THEM,
OF COURSE.

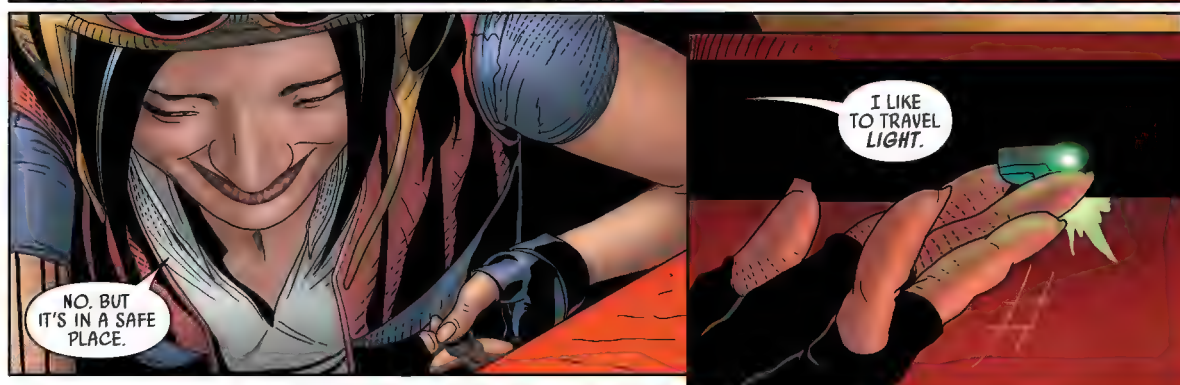
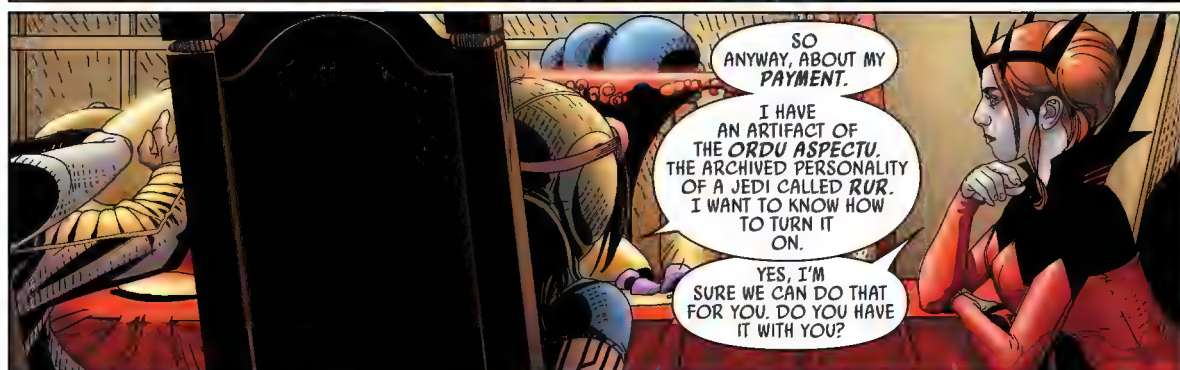
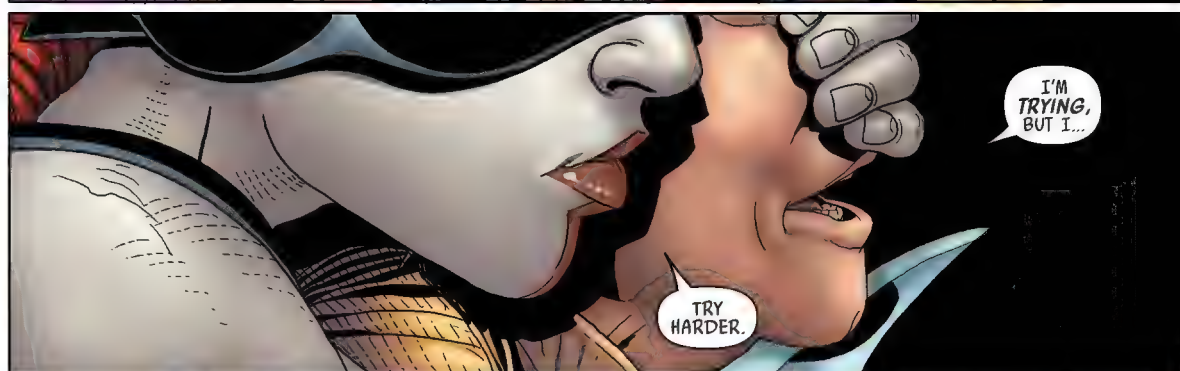


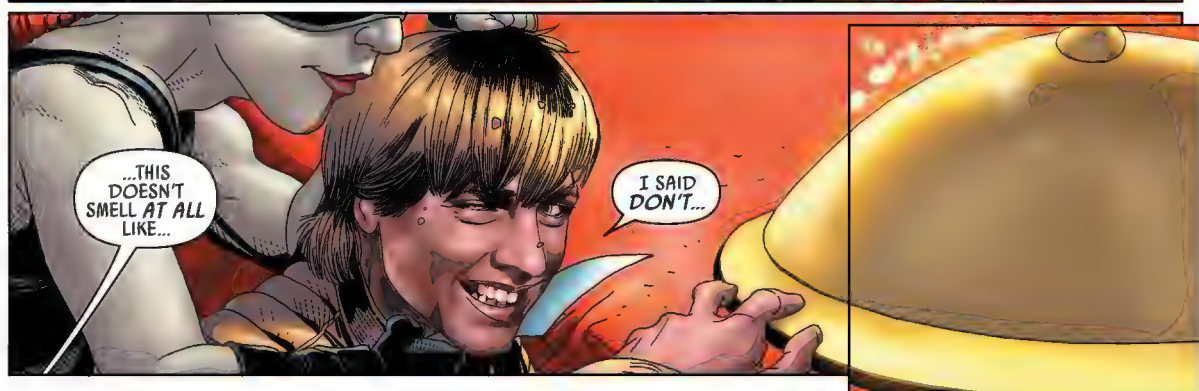
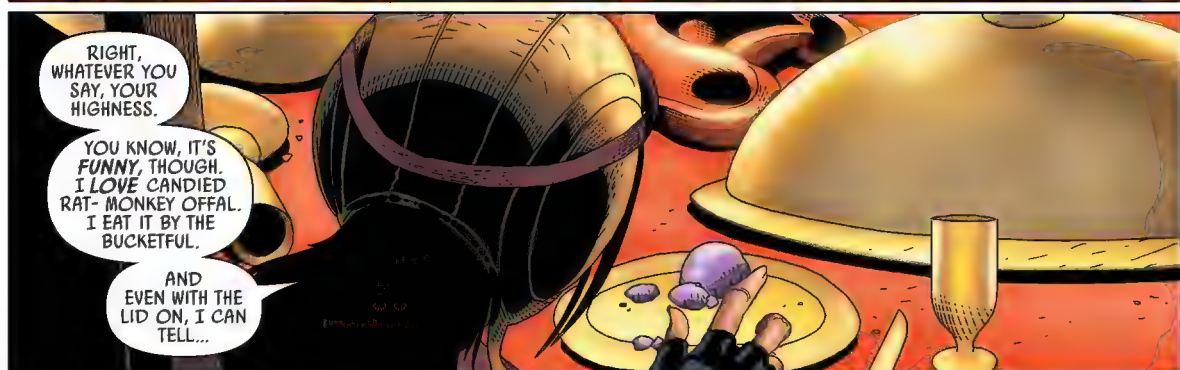
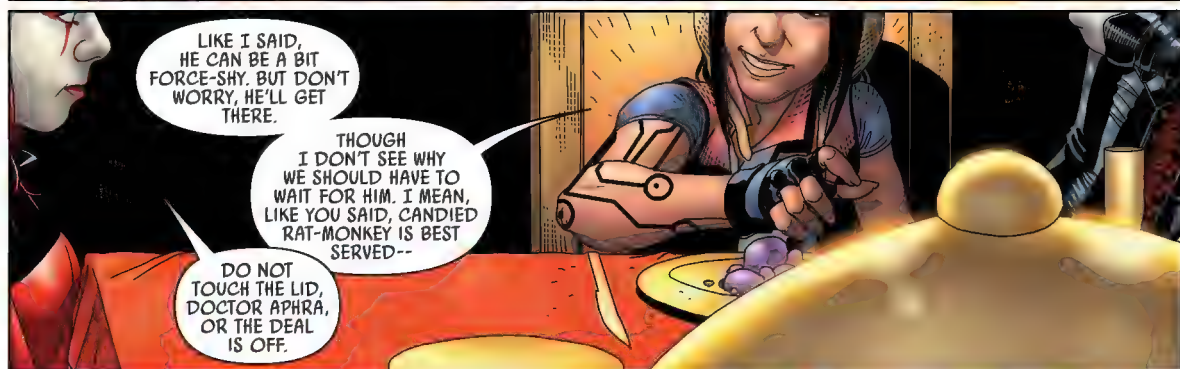
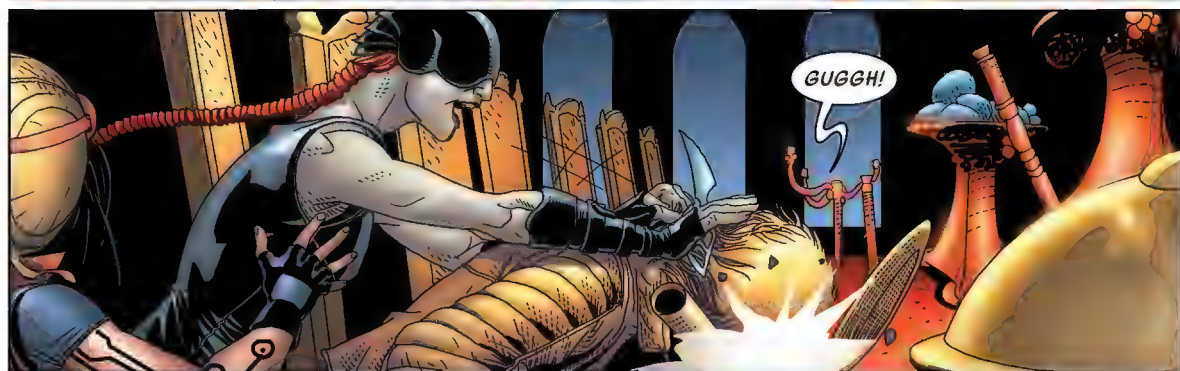
SHE
MEANS USE
THE--

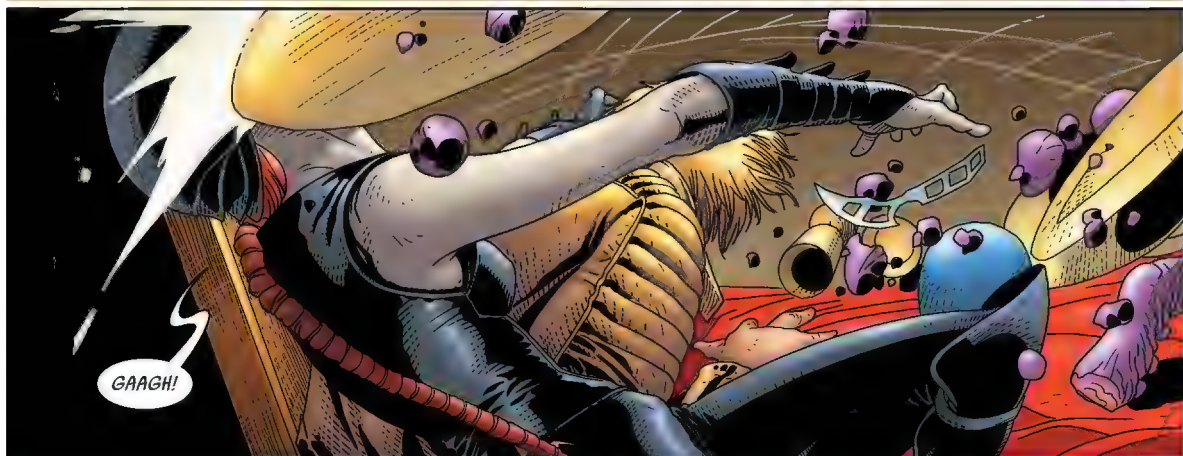
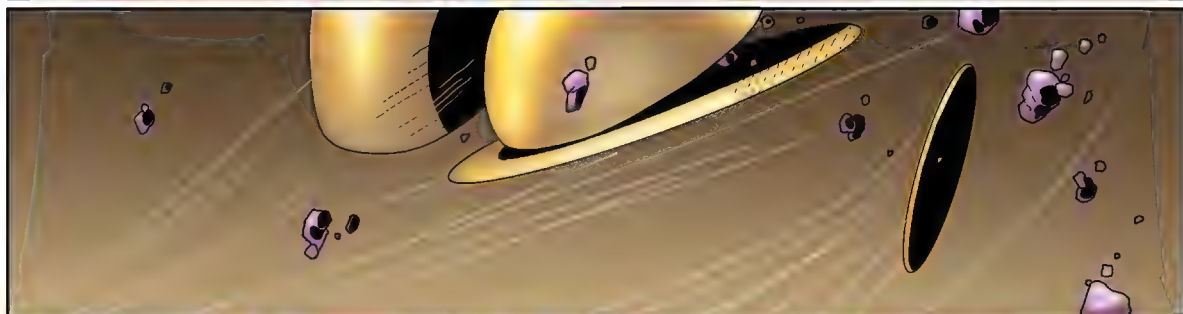
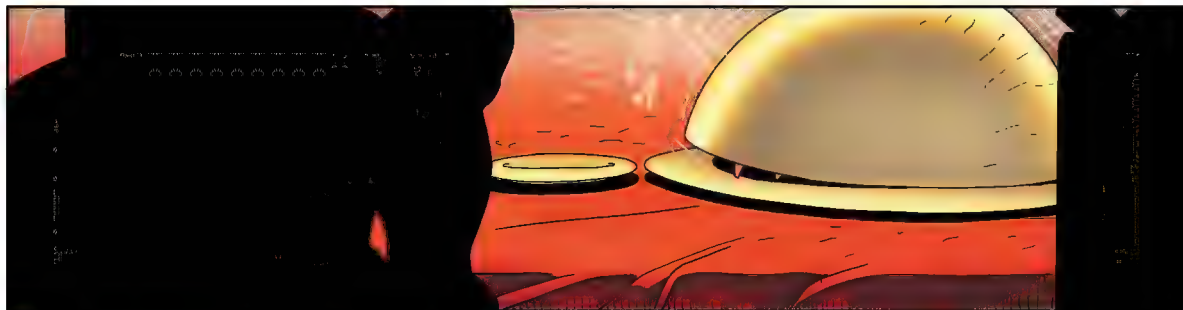
I KNOW
WHAT SHE
MEANS.

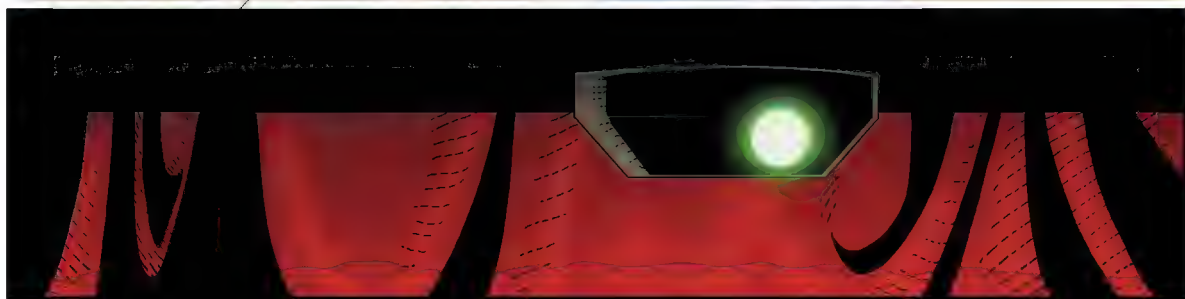
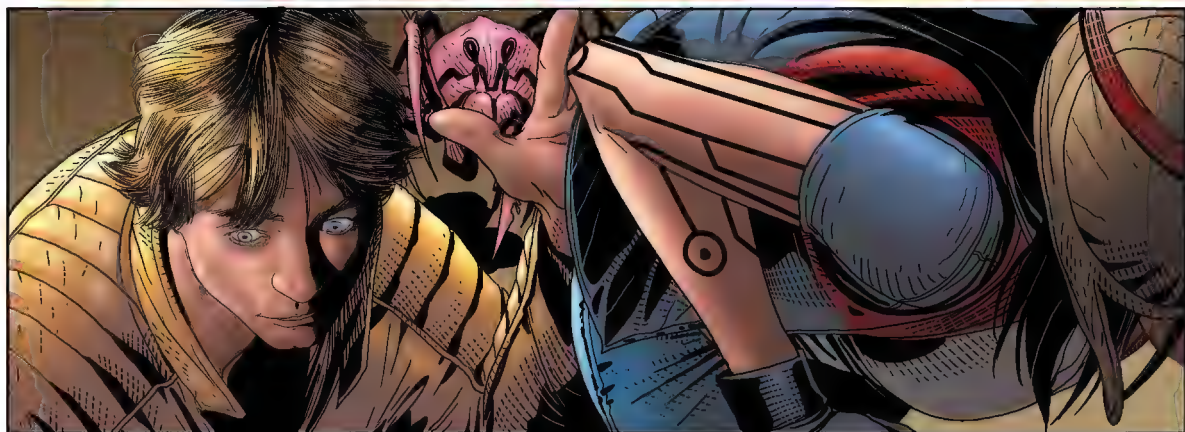
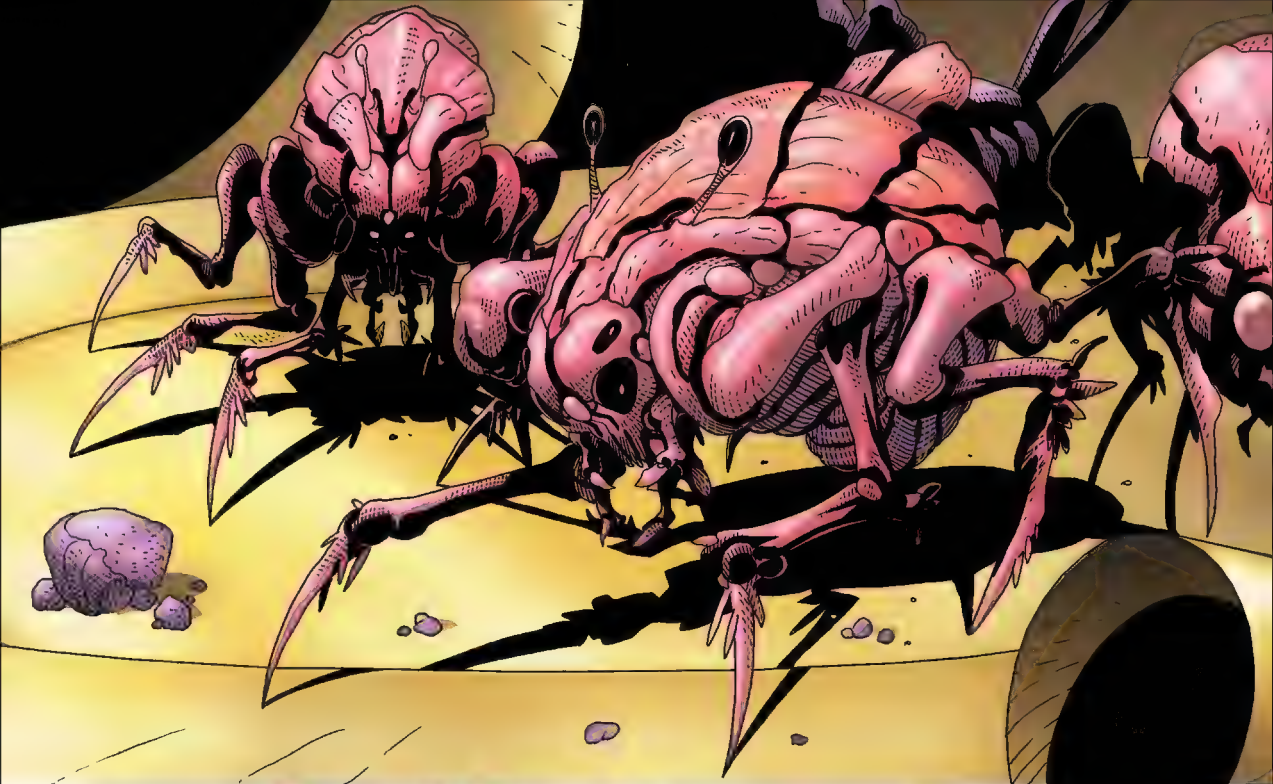




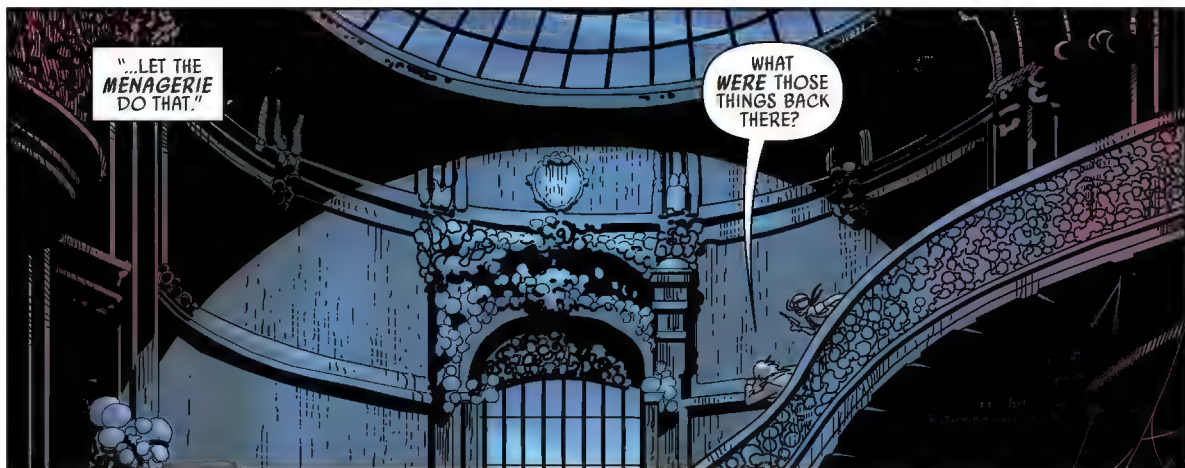












"...LET THE
MENAGERIE
DO THAT."

WHAT
WERE THOSE
THINGS BACK
THERE?



ABERSYN
SYMBIOTES. ONE OF
THE MOST DANGEROUS
ORGANISMS IN THE
GALAXY.

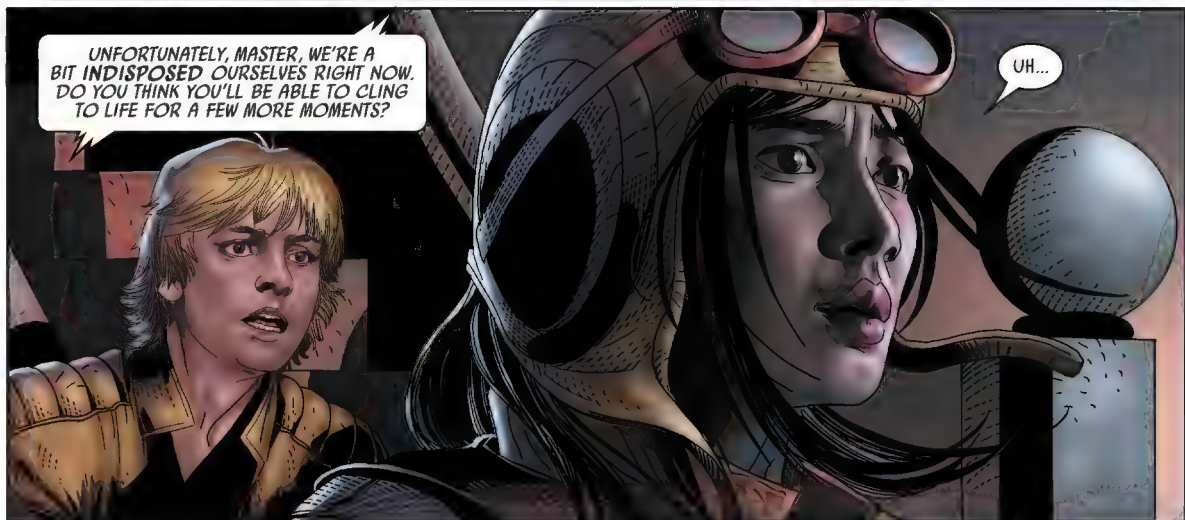
CLASSIFIED
"BEYOND QUARANTINE"
BY THE EMPIRE. THEY GET
ON YOU, THEY TAKE OVER
ALL BRAIN AND MOTOR
FUNCTIONS.

NOT ONLY WAS
SHE PLANNING ON
KEEPING YOU, SHE WAS
GONNA KEEP ME, TOO.
NASTY LITTLE QUEEN.
I'M STARTING TO
LIKE HER.



TRIPLE-ZERO,
COME IN! PLEASE
TELL ME YOU'RE IN
POSITION! WE NEED A
RIDE OUT OF HERE,
AND FAST!

AH, YES, IT'S ALL
GONE TO HELL, HASN'T
IT? WISH I COULD SAY
I WAS SURPRISED.

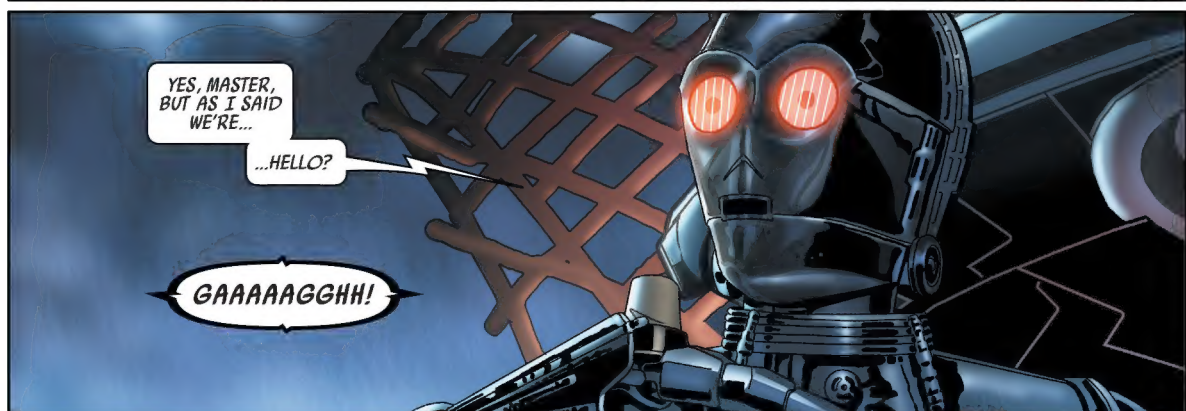


UNFORTUNATELY, MASTER, WE'RE A
BIT INDISPOSED OURSELVES RIGHT NOW.
DO YOU THINK YOU'LL BE ABLE TO CLING
TO LIFE FOR A FEW MORE MOMENTS?

UH...



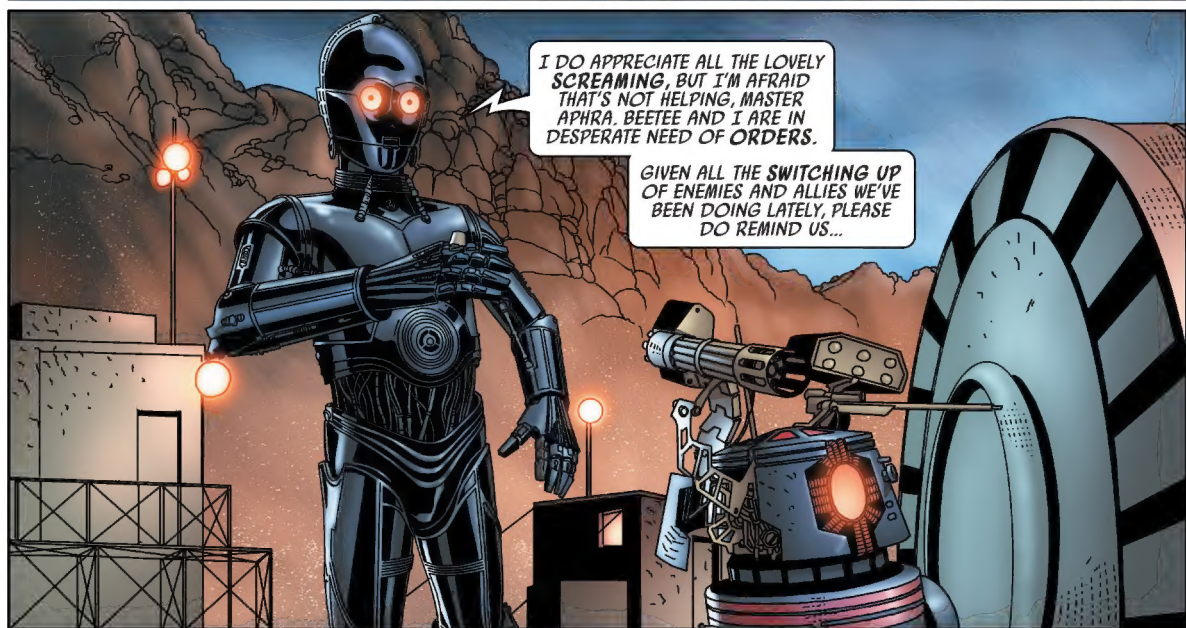
NOT VERY
LIKELY.



YES, MASTER,
BUT AS I SAID
WE'RE...

...HELLO?

GAAAAAGGHH!



I DO APPRECIATE ALL THE LOVELY
SCREAMING, BUT I'M AFRAID
THAT'S NOT HELPING, MASTER
APHRA. BEETEE AND I ARE IN
DESPERATE NEED OF ORDERS.

GIVEN ALL THE SWITCHING UP
OF ENEMIES AND ALLIES WE'VE
BEEN DOING LATELY, PLEASE
DO REMIND US...

...ARE WE STILL
ALLOWED
TO MURDER
REBELS?



DOCTOR APHRA

NEXT ISSUE!



• Tour •
THE SEVEN SEAS

With

**BLACK MANTA
EMPIRE**



Call 555-FISH